

Executive Chamber,

Annapolis, June 16, 1904.

The Board of Public Works met this day in the Governor's office at 10:30 a. m. Present; The Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer.

This being the date fixed for the election of officers of the State Fishery Force, the Board gave a hearing to a large number of applicants and their friends.

Senator Kirwan of Queen Anne's County told the Board that the present Captain of the "Frolic" Alexander Thompson, is not efficient. He endorsed for the position John W. Jones, of Queen Anne's County, and stated that the present captain had not been on duty since March 16th, last. He said that a vote taken by the oystermen of that section showed 63 for Jones, 39 for John Sewell and 22 for Alex. Thompson, the present incumbent. Capt. Howard stated that in this county the oystermen are tongs only; therefore the choice of the oystermen is likely to be wise one.

Senator William F. Applegarth of Dorchester County appeared before the Board and stated that he had no objection to make to the re-election of T. B. C. Howard, the present Commander of the State Fishery Force, and he urged the appointment of Mr. Howard to that position.

Senator Applegarth further stated that he desired to endorse Bruce Harrison for captain of the "Julia Hamilton."

A delegation from Dorchester County composed of Emerson C. Harrington, Benjamin Harrington, Hon. W. Laird Henry, Daniel Moore, Charles Lake, Clerk of the Court, and George Woolford, appeared before the Board and recommended the appointment of Thomas Nathaniel Wheatley for this position. They stated that of the four districts immediately interested in the case three indorsed Mr. Wheatley with practical unanimity. They stated that Harrison Woolford, the present incumbent, is not an applicant so far as they know. Mr. Harrington said that Mr. Wheatley was backed by every Democratic candidate on the State ticket in Dorchester County.

The same delegation also recommended Bruce C. Dean for captain of the "Brown, Smith and Jones."

Senator Applegarth stated that he had had no knowledge until within the last two or three days that the Board would take up these

matters on this day, and he urged that in justice to himself and to the friends of the applicants endorsed by him, a postponement be granted. He said that his choice for the "Brown, Smith & Jones", was Holly Langrell.

A very large delegation of citizens of Anne Arundel County connected with the oyster industry appeared before the Board to urge the appointment of Wm. H. Saunders as captain of the "May Brown" and of Gassaway Dawson as captain of the "Daisy Archer." Their spokesman was Dr. George Wells. He stated that both men were experienced oystermen. Senator Gadd, Theodore Brady, and Dr. B. R. Davidson, also stated that they heartily endorsed Mr. Saunders.

Senator Gadd stated that he did not desire to be understood as endorsing Mr. Gassoway Dawson for the "Daisy Archer."

The same delegation also took occasion while before the Board to state that they recommended John H. Branzel for oyster inspector.

Upon the retirement of this delegation, Senator Gadd introduced to the Board a delegation of about fifty to endorse Edwin N. Dixon as captain of the "Daisy Archer." Mr. Elzey was their spokesman, and dwelt at length upon the qualifications and efficiency of Mr. Dixon. Senator Gadd, Benjamin Watkins and Sheriff Hardy, also endorsed this gentleman.

Mr. Robt. Moss, F. Eugene Wathen and Isaac E. Nutwell headed a large delegation in favor of James H. Nowell for the captaincy of the "Daisy Archer."

The delegation then stated that they wished to recommend to the Board Captain Ogle Tilghman as master of the May Brown. Mr. Moss acted as their chief spokesman and delegate Duvall and Mr. F. E. Wathen also spoke briefly.

Mr. James W. Owens urged the appointment of Mr. Dixon; and Mr. Carr, one of the applicants, informed the Board that he withdrew his application in favor of Mr. Dixon.

Mr. P. Reed Wills and Samuel Turner of Charles County appeared and urged the claim of W. J. Frere as captain of the "Bessie Jones."

Mr. Frank G. Wrightson, of Talbot County, appeared and urged the appointment of John H. Jones as captain of the boat guarding the waters of the Poplar Island Narrows, vice Wm. H. Taylor who is not an applicant for re-appointment; and of Crittendon Harper as captain of the "Eliza Hayward."

Mr. Wrightson also spoke of the fact that under previous Boards of Public Works the mate of the "Frolic" (whose captain was taken from Queen Anne's County) was chosen from Talbot County. He asserted that under the present Board this compact had not been kept. The Governor told him that the Board would have nothing whatever to do with political bargains of any sort.

Senator Greenwell of St. Mary's, with Mr. Thompson and his son, Leo V. Thompson, appeared before the Board to urge the appointment of the last named as captain of the "Folly." Upon inquiry it developed that Mr. Thompson was not an oysterman or waterman, and knew practically nothing about the duties of the place he sought.

Senator Greenwell also endorsed Geo. W. Maddox for captain of the "Bessie Jones." He stated in response to an inquiry, that Edwin J. Plowden, the present mate, is thoroughly competent in every respect.

Mr. J. Thomas Bond, of St. Mary's introduced his son, J. Thomas Bond, Jr., the present commander of the "Bessie Jones" who succeeded to the command upon the death of the former captain. Mr. Bond, Jr., asked the Board to re-appoint him to the Captaincy.

Messrs. Thomas B. Turner, N. W. Brome, Wm. E. Northam, John B. Gray, C. H. Bowen, John Turner, Robt. Martin, and James Sollers, appeared before the Board to urge the claims of Abraham G. Bowen, of St. Mary's County, for captain of the Folly.

Upon the conclusion of the hearings, the Board went into executive session.

The minutes of the previous two meetings were read and approved.

Treasurer Vandiver offered the following:

Resolved, That the Treasurer be requested to take charge of the insurance on all public buildings, and where there are repairs or improvements made, or new buildings constructed, then the Treasurer will see that the policies are properly taken out by the contractor and assigned to the State and he will pay the State's proportion of the cost. Seconded by the Comptroller and carried.

Comptroller Atkinson offered the following:

Resolved, That the Comptroller, who has in charge the preparation of the bonds to be sold on the 1st, day of July, 1904, be authorized to have proper forms prepared so as to admit of registration; in other words, that he get them up in coupon and registered form,

as purchasers may elect. Seconded by the Treasurer and adopted.

Mr. Charles H. Haslup, Superintendent of Public Buildings, reported to the Board his account of sales of desks and of some old tables, carpeting and chairs out of the old chamber of the House of Delegates, amounting to \$500.24, less \$39.64 for advertising, auctioneer's and clerk's fees, leaving a balance of \$460.60. It was moved by the Comptroller, and seconded by the Treasurer, that the sale be ratified and confirmed, and that the proceeds of the same be deposited with the Treasurer of the State to be placed to the credit of the Contingent Fund of the Board of Public Works. Carried.

The Comptroller moved that Miss Jeannette Dryden be paid \$100.00 from the Board's Contingent Fund in payment for extra services rendered on account of the Oyster Law during the administration of Dr. Hering as Comptroller, provided the same is approved by Dr. Hering. Seconded by General Vandiver, and adopted.

General Vandiver moved that the election of a State Auditor be postponed to some future date. Seconded by Dr. Atkinson, and carried.

Moved by the Comptroller, and seconded by the Treasurer that the Board proceed to the election of officers of the State Fishery Force. Adopted.

The Governor nominated T. B. C. Howard of Dorchester County, the present Commander of the Force, for re-election. Comptroller Atkinson nominated Wm. J. Shores of Somerset County. Treasurer Vandiver seconded the nomination of Mr. Howard. There being no second to the nomination of Mr. Shores, Dr. Atkinson withdrew his nomination, and Mr. Howard was unanimously re-elected.

The Comptroller nominated James A. Turner of Wicomico County for Deputy Commander of the Force, commanding the "Governor McLane". Seconded by the Treasurer and unanimously elected.

The Comptroller nominated James R. Downey of Kent County, as commander of the "Anna B. Smith". Seconded by the Treasurer and unanimously elected.

The Treasurer nominated John W. Jones, of Queen Anne's County for commander of the "Frolic". Seconded by Dr. Atkinson and unanimously elected.

The Treasurer nominated John H. Jones of Talbot County, for commander of the local boat for Poplar Island Narrows, Talbot County. Seconded by the Comptroller and unanimously elected.

The Comptroller nominated Crittendon C. Harper of Talbot County, for Commander of the "Eliza Hayward." Seconded by the Treasurer and unanimously elected.

The Comptroller moved that the election of a captain for the "Brown, Smith and Jones." be postponed. Seconded by the Treasurer and adopted.

The Treasurer nominated Thomas Nathaniel Wheatley of Dorchester County for captain of the "Julia Hamilton." Seconded by the Comptroller, and unanimously elected.

Robert F. Walter, of Wicomico County, was nominated by the Treasurer for captain of the "Nellie Jackson." Seconded by the Comptroller, and unanimously elected.

Alfred T. Lawson, of Somerset County, was nominated for captain of the "Helen Baughman." Seconded by the Treasurer and unanimously elected.

The Comptroller nominated Wm. H. Saunders, of Anne Arundel County as captain of the "May Brown." Seconded by the Comptroller, and unanimously elected.

The Treasurer nominated James H. Nowell of Anne Arundel County as captain of the "Daisy Archer." Seconded by the Comptroller, and unanimously elected.

The Comptroller nominated J. Thomas Bond, Jr., of St. Mary's County, for captain of the "Folly." Seconded by the Treasurer, and unanimously elected.

G. W. Maddox, of St. Mary's County, was nominated for captain of the "Bessie Jones" by the Treasurer. Seconded by the Comptroller. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Atkinson, seconded by General Vandiver, the Board at 1:45 p. m., adjourned.

Oswald Tilghman, Secretary.